Leicester, October 30. 1871.

Dear friend Webb;

Your latest received is that of 14th inst. enclosing the draft for £10. for the Gays. As to that I will say at once that it seems to me best to write direct to Gay himself, and tell him of your kind & generous act, & get his address, & then send the bill to him, if we find he has lost. I will also write to Mr. Haydock or some one in New York & ascertain if Gay be there. It can hardly be otherwise than that they have been duly cited to much loss & inconvenience if residents of Chicago at the time of the fire. — I send you by this mail a Harper's Weekly, with some notices of the fire.

You & other friends of Mrs. May have had much trouble in getting & forwarding a certain box of linen, &c. strangely baulked for a time all efforts to have it go along straight. Thanks to your several & joint efforts it has safely arrived in Boston, as we heard on Saturday, & are hoping to receive it here today.

We are greatly rejoiced to hear your good news — "Alfred is all right again." Please give him my hearty congratulations on his recovery, & my best wishes for his long continued health & prosperity; & tell him again, please, that I was interested very much in the letter he wrote me in the summer; & that if I haven't yet answered it, & do not answer it for some time to come, he must please excuse it, & set it down to my time being all due to another & very pressing call, whose emergencies are immediate & imperative.

Again to a little business: I believe you give me more credit than I am entitled to, for caution in not leading you into a doubtful investment. And yet it is true that I do deprecate such a thing greatly. It w^d make me very unhappy.

It does not occur to me now what investment I made for my Mother "at 7 per cent"; except some that were made years ago at that rate, and a more recent one, not exactly an investment, but a loan on a note, well secured. But I recently - viz. last March - invested some funds (part of the avails of my father's house, wh. he intended for her occupancy, ~~during life~~ but which she chose to give up, & which has been sold) for her use ~~in bonds~~ in Eight per cent bonds of the Rutland Railr. Co. This road is in Vermont, but chiefly owned in Boston, and is now leased to the Vermont Central R.R. Co, who run it of course on the same basis & rates as their own, & the rivalry between them having ceased, there is a good certainty of receipts, profitable & regular. I bought them One Thousand Dollar Bonds then at 1% (one per cent) advance only, & rec'd. Sept. 1st the first semi-annual interest, of 4% for the six months. I am sorry I can't tell you their present market price; - if I were in Boston I could quickly ascertain. They are not often up for sale, I think; and I suspect are somewhat higher than when I bought. You can ascertain about them, if in the London Market, of course, - & that you say is a condition of investment with you, - & very properly. The same R.R. Co. has another Class of Bonds out - "Seven per cent Equipment Bonds" they are called. I believe them both to be good & safe. - There is a Company in Chicago, building the commodious Rail Road "Drawing Room", & "Sleeping" Cars, known as the Pullman Palace Cars. It is doing a very large & a very profitable business - (I speak on the authority of a Boston man, an excellent Financier, the one who has the charge of the Garrison Testimonial Funds, & a partner of the late Charles F. Hovey) - & has such contracts & guarantees for future years, as give it a very strong position. Its stock & bonds, both, pay quart'ly div'ds, of 3% - or 12 per cent a year. They sell at 10% advance. I question if these are known in London. I do not know what my friend (above) would say of this investment since the Chicago fire; but it is probably

stated that the "Pullman Palace Car Company" lost nothing by the fire.— I have $1000. of that Stock, and one of my sons has a $1000. bond;— which I name to you, only to show how I have viewed the security. — There are other good investments, but I think you have heard enó for now. — As to your U.S. Bonds wh. are to be paid off Dec.1, I suppose you can cash them at fair rates any day. The int. on the new Five per cent Bonds has the advantage of entire freedom from any tax - is to be paid quarterly — and is as absolutely certain & exactly punctual, as possible for anything human to be.

And for postage stamps, I enclose you a Dollar's worth as you request; but Mrs. May sends you half of them, for she says there has been quite an accumulation of them, used by you for her, since she had a settlement with you, and she chooses to pay for them, and would wish to pay all expenses incurred by you for her. Please give her thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Addey for their kindness in looking after the boy. — So you will have only 50 cents to pay me for stamps, and I daresay I may be owing you that;— but if not, you can send me English penny or 3d. stamps for it in a letter. I can always furnish you stamps in this way; & no trouble about sending money, either way.

We all continue in fair health. Last Thursday I went through the unpleasant process of having a double tooth extracted, preparatory to farther Dentistry; and it made me quite good for nothing for the next day or two. We are snugly at home; & the cold weather begins to appear. Last night for the first time the ground froze quite stiff, — my glass, at 7 o'clk, standing at just 32°. Our neighbors are in their usual state of health; with regard to several of whom that is not saying much that is very favorable. Our good friend Mrs. Bertody still lingers in the neighborhood of Boston, & will be kept there, I suspect, as long as she lives. Other letters now call me off, and I finish with my best regards to Deborah and am, Ever your affate friend, Saml. May.

I hope you have received the Draft I sent you for £13.10.0 about

Shall I return Miss Martineau's note to you? the hand-
writing is familiar, i.e. immediately recognized. I
never had a note from her, but have seen many. She
is a wonderful woman, and I suspect few persons
have lived & accomplished so much under such
discouraging weights.

ms. B:1, b v:11, p.19